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April 30, 2002

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2800 MAIL ROOM

# BOX CPA

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Minoru USUI, Noriaki OKAZAWA, Satoru HOSONO, and  
Tomoaki TAKAHASHI  
INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS  
Assignee: **SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION**  
Our Ref: Q53288

Dear Sir:

This is a request for filing a Continuation Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (continued prosecution application (CPA)) of pending prior Application No. 09/242,490 filed on May 13, 1999 of Minoru USUI, Noriaki OKAZAWA, Satoru HOSONO, and Tomoaki TAKAHASHI entitled INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS.

This application is being filed under 37 CFR § 1.53(d). The prior application, in which no payment of the issue fee, abandonment, or termination of proceedings has occurred, is hereby expressly abandoned as of the filing date of this new application. It is understood that secrecy under 35 USC § 122 is hereby waived to the extent that if information or access is available to any one of the applications in the file jacket, be it either this application or a prior application in the same file jacket, the Patent and Trademark Office may provide similar information or access to all the other applications in the same file jacket.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 2861

A Preliminary Amendment is being submitted herewith.

The power of attorney appears in the original papers of the prior application.

Priority is claimed from:

Country	Application No	Filing Date
Japan	P. Hei. 9-191918	July 2, 1997
Japan	P. Hei. 10-50101	February 16, 1998

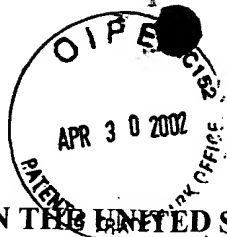
The priority documents were filed in parent Application No. PCT/JP98/02898.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	28 - 20	=	8	x	\$18.00	=	\$144.00
Independent claims	6 - 3	=	3	x	\$84.00	=	\$252.00
							\$740.00

05/01/2002 JADD01 00000047 194880 09242490

02 FC:131 740.00 CH  
03 FC:102 252.00 CH  
04 FC:103 144.00 CH



PATENT APPLICATION

#21  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Minoru USUI, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/242,490

Group Art Unit: 2861

Confirmation No.: 1121

Examiner: M. Nghiem

Filed: May 13, 1999

For: INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

20. (Once amended) An ink supply passage structure comprising:
- a first ink supply path having a first open end, wherein said first ink supply path axially terminates at the first open end;
  - a second ink supply path connected to and extending from the first open end to be communicated with the first ink supply path, wherein the second ink supply path is at least as large in cross sectional area as the first ink supply path, and the first open end of the first ink supply path forms an axial terminus of the second ink supply path; and

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
CPA of U.S. Appln. 09/242,490

F.  
cont.  
a protrusion and/or groove axially provided to the second ink supply path, wherein the protrusion and/or groove is contiguous to at least the first open end of the first ink supply path, wherein the first ink supply path axially terminates at a longitudinal axis of the first ink supply path, and

wherein the longitudinal axis of the first ink supply path is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the second ink supply path.

Sub  
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**Please add the following new claim.**

28. (New) An ink supply passage structure comprising:

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H3  
a first ink supply path having a first open end, wherein said first ink supply path axially terminates at the first open end;

AZ  
a second ink supply path connected to and extending from the first open end to be communicated with the first ink supply path, wherein the second ink supply path is at least as large in cross sectional area as the first ink supply path, and the first open end of the first ink supply path forms an axial terminus of the second ink supply path; and

a protrusion and/or groove axially provided to the second ink supply path, wherein the protrusion and/or groove is contiguous to at least the first open end of the first ink supply path, wherein the protrusion and/or groove axially extends from the second ink supply path, across the first open end of the first ink supply path, and into the first ink supply path.